

January 1, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas

Luke 2: 15-21

This morning we hear about two important events in the life of the young Messiah. Those being His circumcision on the eight day and the giving of His name. The fact that both events happened when they did should tell us that His parents were very obedient and observant Jews.

I thought it might be best for us to just focus on the giving of His name this morning. There seems to be a lot in the choosing of the name. Yet Joseph and Mary did not choose Our Lord's name. God chose it and the angel revealed it to both. This child will have many names, but they all refer to the same person. The name Jesus translates into English as Yahweh saves. In Eastern Europe and the Middle East, He is called Isus. In Hebrew it is Yeshua or Joshua. Farther east the Arabs, Persians and

Indians call Him Issa. They all refer to the exact same person. The One who is Our Lord and Saviour.

The simple words from verse 21 say it all. That “He was called Jesus.”

Many scholars have said that the use of the passive voice here stresses the fact that God and not Joseph and Mary were the source of this name. There was no confusion over what His name was to be.

Remember John the Baptist and the choosing of his name. Zachariah had to confirm that John was indeed to be his name.

The name Jesus which means Yahweh saves, is a holy name in many ways. His name signifies that he is the bearer of divine status. All because of His supernatural conception between Mary and the Holy Spirit. His name also spells out the specific mission that His heavenly Father has sent Him on. Jesus is to be God’s agent of salvation for Israel and through Israel to the rest of the world.

Our scripture speaks very much about the power of the name Jesus.

This is the name that makes us children of God. We are to pray in this name. We can even drive out demons in His name and perform other

miracles. John 1:12, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

It is in the name of Jesus that we should start our prayers, John 14: 13,

“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may

be glorified in the Son.” There was also the time that some people

were casting out demons and healing people in Jesus’s name. The

disciples got very upset because these people were not Jesus’s

disciples. Jesus’s response was great. Just let them be, they are still

doing good. This incident truly speaks to the power of His name.

As Christians in our modern age, we too are to proclaim the name of

Jesus in word and deed. The Good News is in the translation of His

name. That Yahweh saves is the root of our salvation. This is

something that we need to remember and proclaim. We can do this by

how we live our lives. Make our lives a living testimony that Yahweh

saves. Like the shepherds who visited the Christ child, we need to

share this good news with everyone that we meet.